



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

January 7, 2004

H.R. 2693 **Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 2003**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on November 5, 2003

SUMMARY

H.R. 2693 would authorize the appropriation of \$345 million over the 2004-2008 period for programs to protect and conserve marine mammals. Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$9 million in 2004 and \$254 million over the next five years. The bill could increase direct spending and revenues, but we estimate that any such changes would be minimal and largely offsetting. H.R. 2693 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2693 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Spending Under Current Law for Marine Mammal Protection Act Activities					
Budget Authority ^a	5	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	5	2	0	0	0
Proposed Changes					
Authorization Level	62	68	69	70	71
Estimated Outlays	9	32	63	77	73
Spending Under H.R. 2693 Marine Mammal Protection Act Activities					
Authorization Level ^a	67	68	69	70	71
Estimated Outlays	14	34	63	77	73
a. The 2004 level is the amount appropriated for that year to the Department of the Interior for activities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.					

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that H.R. 2693 would cost \$9 million in 2004 and \$254 million over the next five years. The bill also would increase direct spending and revenues, but we estimate that any such effects would be small and largely offsetting.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

H.R. 2693 would reauthorize programs administered by the Department of Commerce (DOC) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) under the Marine Mammals Protection Act. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$335 million over the 2004-2008 period for those agencies to support various activities, including the preparation and execution of plans to manage marine mammals, research and monitoring efforts, and grant programs to support the rescue of marine mammals from life-threatening situations. Based on historical spending patterns for these activities, CBO estimates that appropriation of the specified amounts would result in additional outlays of \$7 million in 2004 and \$244 million over the next five years.

H.R. 2693 also would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million a year over the 2004-2008 period for the Marine Mammal Commission, which performs research and advises DOC and DOI on efforts to conserve marine mammals. Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that funding that commission would cost \$2 million a year for the next five years.

Direct Spending and Revenues

H.R. 2693 would provide new authority for the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior to collect and spend donations (which are recorded in the budget as revenues) to support programs to research fishing methods and other activities related to the conservation of marine mammals. Based on information from DOC and DOI, CBO estimates that any such donations and any subsequent direct spending would not exceed \$500,000 in any year.

By increasing the level of civil and criminal fines for violations of the Marine Mammals Protection Act, H.R. 2693 could increase revenues from such fines. Based on information from DOI about the relatively small number of cases likely to occur, however, CBO estimates that any such increase would total less than \$500,000 annually. Moreover, such changes would be fully offset by increases in direct spending from the Crime Victims Fund (where criminal fines are deposited) or the resource management account of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (where civil fines are deposited and used for rewards to informers and other program costs.)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2693 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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